

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of Checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21 RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for Applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring the preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the question from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply". Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe the your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or to provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (Part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:
"Ice Sage" Harvest Unit
2. Name of applicant:
Longview Timber Corp.
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
1616 N. 18th Street, Suite 108, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Wes Worden 360-355-0386
4. Date checklist prepared:
8/21/09
5. Agency requesting checklist: Washington Department of Natural Resources
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
Fall 2009, Q3 2010 if driven out by snow in 2009.
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal?
If yes, explain.
This is a harvest in our commercial tree farm system and is directly adjacent to our "Lower Highline" harvest unit (FPA 2806120). There are other units within this cultural area upon which timber harvest will be proposed in the future. Road maintenance is addressed in our RMAP plan.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

None

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

Washington Department of Natural Resources Forest Practices Permit.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agency may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

This is an even-aged harvest of approximately 35 acres. Timber will be removed with cable and ground-based logging systems. Landings will be constructed as well.

12. Location of proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographical map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any applications related to this checklist.

Portions of E1/2NW1/4, NE1/4SW1/4 of section 33 Township 38N, Range 6E. This is in Whatcom County.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountains, other _____.

Mountainous with planar slopes, moderately steep.

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

65

- c. What general types of soils (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Very gravelly silt loam

Gravelly loam

Very gravelly loam

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

None identified.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

The only earth moving would be for potential landings but the roads will suffice in most places.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

None is expected.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

None.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Ceasing all operations if activity has potential to cause sediment to typed waters. Maintain stream buffer as flagged. Maintain ditches and drainage structures as needed.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from this proposal (i.e. dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Exhaust from harvest and logging hauling equipment during the course of the project. Quantities unknown.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

None

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

None. Impact expected to be minimal.

3. Water

a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Yes. There is one Np stream and 2 Ns streams within the harvest area. These are tributaries to the Middle Fork of the Nooksack River. In addition within the adjacent FPA 2806120 there are 8 Ns streams which are also tributaries to the Middle Fork of the Nooksack River.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Yes. A 50' buffer will be maintained along the Np stream. Ns streams will have 30' equipment limitation zones.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of the fill material.

None

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100 year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No

b. Ground:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals . . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

None

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. Potential storm water flow from ditch lines will flow through cross-drain culverts back onto the forest floor.

- 2) Could waste material enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Yes. There is a slight risk of fuel/hydraulic spills from equipment.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

Road construction contractors will maintain spill kits on site during activities and follow the guidelines of Longview Timber Corp.'s spill prevention plan. Ditch lines and culverts will be maintained.

4. Plants

- a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

☒ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

☒ evergreen tree: Doug-fir, cedar, hemlock, pine, other

☒ shrubs

☐ grass

- ___ pasture
- ___ crop or grain
- ___ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other
- ___ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- ___ other types of vegetation

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?
Approximately 550 mbf of mature timber will be removed from the site.
- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.
None known.
- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:
Leaving trees with desirable habitat characteristics among leave trees.

5. Animals

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:
birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:
- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.
None known
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.
No
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:
Leave operationally safe snags if encountered.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electrical, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.
None
- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.
No
- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:
None

7. Environmental Health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.
Small risk of fire or chemical spill associated with the logging equipment.
- 1) Describe any emergency services that might be required.
Wildfire suppression, chemical spill cleanup.
- 2) Propose measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
Follow Washington State fire precautionary requirements—maintain required fire suppression equipment on site. Follow Longview Timber Corp. spill prevention plan and maintain a spill kit on site.
- b. Noise
- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?
None
- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.
Log truck traffic noise, chainsaw noise, cable yarding whistles, other equipment

noise.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:
None. Impact expected to be minimal.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?
Commercial Forestry
- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.
No
- c. Describe any structures on the site.
None
- d. Will any structures be demolished? if so, what?
No
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?
Commercial forestry
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?
Commercial forestry
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?
Not applicable
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.
No
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?
None
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?
None
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:
Not applicable
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
harvest is compatible with current planning/zoning restrictions

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle or low-income housing.
Not applicable
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
Not applicable
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:
Not applicable

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?
Not applicable
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
Harvest will create nice views of Mount Baker and the Twin Sisters.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:
Landing slash will be machine piled. Planting the unit as soon as feasible upon completion of harvest.

11. Light and Glare

- a. What kind of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?
None
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?
No

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?
None
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:
Not applicable

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreation opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
Hunting, hiking, berry-picking.
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
No. It could improve some types of hunting.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreational opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:
None

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.
Yes. This proposal is within a registered cultural area.
- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.
None known.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:
If any cultural resources are discovered during operations, operations will be suspended at that location until the significance or potential significance of the site is determined.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system.
Show on site plans if any.
Proposed access is from Mosquito Lake Road (County) to south Blue Mountain mainline forest road.
- b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?
No
- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?
None/None
- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).
No
- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.
No
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.
The completed project would only have an occasional pickup to check on reforestation and road maintenance. During harvest approximately 150 loads of logs (550 Mbf) will be hauled from the harvest area averaging 5-7 loads/day. Logging crew pickups would also enter and leave the site once a day. Peak volumes would probably occur between July and October.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:
None

15. Public Services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.
No
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.
Not applicable

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

None

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: _____

Reviewed by (optional): _____

Title: _____

Assistant Tree Farm Manager

Date: _____

8/24/09